

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) ~~A nucleic acid encoding for a~~
An isolated protein with ~~endoribonucleasie~~ endoribonuclease
activity, wherein said protein with ~~endoribonucleasie~~
endoribonuclease activity ~~is characterized in that it is polyU~~
and single ~~filament~~ strand specific, ~~Mn⁺⁺ ions dependent~~ ion-
dependent and able to release ~~2'-3' cyclic phosphate and 5'OH~~
~~ends cleavage products~~ cleavage products having a 2'-3' cyclic
phosphate at the 3' end, and wherein said protein is encoded by a
nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID No 1.

19. (currently amended) ~~The nucleic acid according to~~
~~claim 18 substantially including~~ An isolated nucleic acid
comprising SEQ ID No 1 ~~nucleotide sequence, functional homologs~~
~~thereof or a complementary sequence thereto.~~

20. (currently amended) A recombinant vector able to
express ~~effectively~~ the ~~inventive~~ nucleic acid in prokaryotes
according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 19.

21. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A recombinant vector
able to express ~~effectively~~ the ~~inventive~~ nucleic acid in
eukaryotes according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 19.

22-34. (canceled)

35. (new) An isolated nucleic acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID No 1.

36. (new) An isolated protein with endoribonuclease activity, wherein said protein with endoribonuclease activity is characterized in that said protein is polyU and single strand specific, Mn^{++} ion-dependent and able to release cleavage products having a 2'-3' cyclic phosphate at the 3' end, and wherein said protein is encoded by a nucleic acid consisting of SEQ ID No 1.